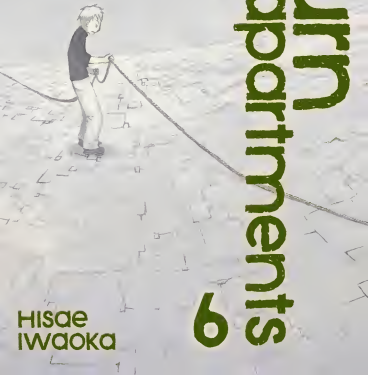


saturn apartments

6

HISAE
IWAOKA



saturn
apartments 6

HISAE IWAOKA



saturn apartments 6

FLOOR 45. THE GUIDING THREAD 003

FLOOR 46. THE SHIP YOU WILL RIDE 023

FLOOR 47. THE FLAT GROUND 043

FLOOR 48. HOPE 063

FLOOR 49. LOOKING AT THE SHADOWS 083

FLOOR 50. CONFUSED ONE 103


FLOOR 51. SMOKE 123

FLOOR 52. CONFUSION 143

FLOOR 53. LIGHT AND SHADOW 163

IN THE LOFT 183





floor 45: the guiding thread

OH?











WELL,
THAT
DIDN'T
QUITE
WORK.

HEY,
KYONTA.



HUFF...



KA
F
M
O
O
H

UGH.



I TOLD YOU I'D
RENT YOU THE
WAREHOUSE,
BUT I'LL MAKE
YOU LEAVE IF
YOU START A
FIRE.

HEY.

GAH!
SIS.



HMM?



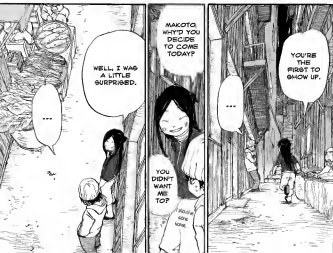
DANG.
I'M ON
THE LATE
SHIFT, BUT
I MIGHT
BE LATE.



KYONTA





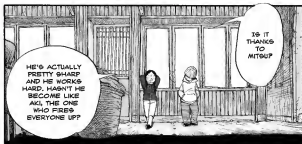




I THINK
YOU'RE ALL
WORKING
WELL AS
A GROUP.



HEY, WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
ABOUT HOW
THE WINDOW
WASHERS
ARE DOING
NOW?



HE'S ACTUALLY
PRETTY SHARP
AND HE WORKS
HARD. HASN'T HE
BECOME LIKE
AKI, THE ONE
WHO FIRES
EVERYONE UP?

IS IT
THANKS
TO
MITSU?



IT'S
'CAUSE
MITSU'S
DOING
THE BEST
HE CAN.



HMM...



NO, I'M NOT
COMPARING.

YOU COM-
PARING
THE TWO?





Jin's
worn
out
today.



I ENVY
HARUKO AND
JIN. THEY'RE
SO CLOSE.



WHAT
THE
HECK.

BY THE WAY,
TODAY MR.
NISHI
ASKED ME
IF I'M
GONNA GET
MARRIED.



HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?

NOPE...
NO WAY.

That's
annoying



HMM.

YOU MIGHT
GET MARRIED.



SO I DON'T
THINK I'LL
LIVE THAT
LONG
EITHER.

TAP



MY DAD WAS A
WINDOW WASHER,
BUT HE WAS
VULNERABLE TO
THE HARMFUL
RADIATION IN THE
ATMOSPHERE,
AND HE DIED
YOUNG.



WELL...









YOU
WANNA
TAKE A
RIDE?

I STARTED
MY NEW
BUSINESS
TODAY.



OH,
MITSU!



STOP.

A
CUSTOMER.

WHY'D
FUYU
HERE?!



I CAN WORK
WITH FUYU.
ISN'T THAT
GREAT?

YEAH.

WHAP! YOU
STARTED
TODAY?!



YOU
DOING ALL
RIGHT?

OH! YOU
TWO ARE
HERE
TOO.



I STAND
OUT. I'M
THE AD!

I'M GONNA
ADVERTISE
WHILE I
CAN!

SHING



HMMP



YOU'RE
WELL
ENOUGH...

MR.
KAGEYAMA
...

TMP





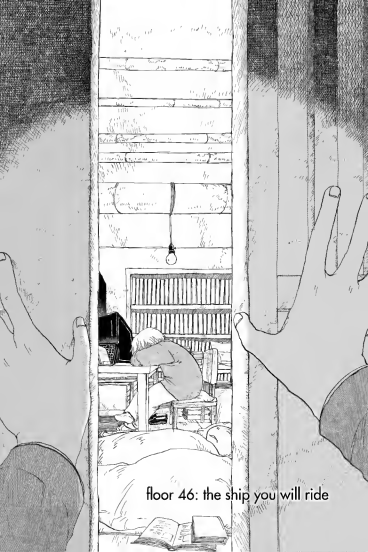




...at the
words
that
spilled
from my
mouth.



I really
do like
her.



floor 46: the ship you will ride









YOU
AND
ME...

WE'LL GO
FIRST AND
MAKE A NEW
WORLD FOR
THOSE
WHO'LL
FOLLOW US.

A FRESH
NEW LAND
WHERE
THERE'S NO
UPPER OR
LOWER
LEVELS....
YES!

I HOPE WE
CAN LIVE ON
THE SURFACE
SOMEDAY.

HEY,
YULDAH.

YEAH...
THAT'LL BE
WONDERFUL...

...AND
THE THIRD
PERSON
TO BE!

But
Makie...

Oh, no
He was
tired

???

WHAT?
YOU'RE
FROM THE
LOWER
LEVELS?

The most
wonderful
thing is the
time the two
of us spend
together.



WELL... BUT IF
I DON'T DO MY
BEST NOW, I
MAY BE TAKEN
OFF THE
PROJECT....

YOU SPENT
A WEEK AT
THE LAB,
BUT YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
AT ALL....

OH? YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED?

WELL....
I'VE BEEN
BUSY....

WHAT
IS IT?

I HAVE GOOD
NEWS FOR
YOU BUT I'M
NOT GONNA
TELL YOU.

IF YOU CAN'T
KEEP YOUR
PROMISES, YOUR
WORK WILL BE
AFFECTED TOO.

...THAT
YOU'D
CHANGE
EVERY DAY
AND EAT
YOUR
MEALS.

BUT YOU
PROMISED
ME...

....
YES.

I'M
SORRY.

We were
finally
blessed
with a
baby.



SKY

WHY
WOULDN'T
THEY
COME...



DAMNIT.

DAMNIT.



SHE GOT MORE
AND MORE
PALE, SO I
REQUESTED AN
AMBULANCE,
BUT NO ONE
CAME.

SHE HAD
CRAMPS
DURING THE
NIGHT AND
GHS'S
BLEEDING...



YUUKI

I'M
COLD



WHY
YES.

HAVE THAT
UPPER-LEVEL
RESIDENT GO
FIRST.

PLEASE
WAIT A
LITTLE
LONGER.

WHY?
SHE
STILL
SEEMS
ALL
RIGHT.



YOU DON'T
EVEN HAVE
AN APPOINT-
MENT.

THEN
PLEASE
WAIT
HERE..

Yes, we
waited.
How
long
did we
wait?

WE'VE KEPT
YOU WAITING.

GOOD, THE
CHAIRMAN
OF THAT
COMPANY IS
GOING TO
SURVIVE.

There are so
many people,
but they
pretend not
to see us.

THINGS
ARE
FINE
HERE
TOO.

US
TOO.

She's
asleep
now.

My wife
almost died
due to
hemorrhagic
shock.

...had
already
lost its
life.

The
baby.











MR. NISHIMURA,
IT'S TIME FOR
YOU TO GO.



WHAT DO
WE MEAN?



COME GET
YOUR
WIFE.

So Makie
Isn't
Makie
anymore?

A fake
sky...



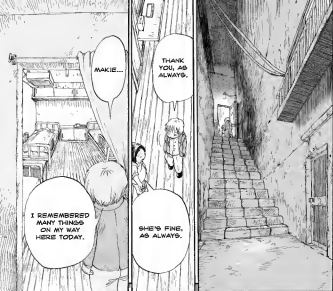
WHAT CAN
I DO HERE
ALL BY
MYSELF...



THE UPPER
LEVELS. THE
LOWER
LEVELS. WHO
PREPARED
THESE
RECEPTACLES?

No...
I am not
alone...







WHAT DID I
DO WRONG?
WHAT DID
MAKIE DO
WRONG?

OUR
CHILD
WASN'T
EVEN
BORN!



YOU HAD
BEAUTIFUL
BLACK HAIR.

IT WASN'T
THAT LONG
AGO, BUT...

HA
HA
HA.



WE MUST
STAND UP
FOR
OURSELVES.

WHAT ARE
THOSE
UPPER-LEVEL
GUYS DOING?
I CAN'T
BELIEVE THAT
THERE'S
NOTHING
GOING ON.



THE
FUTURE
IS FULL
OF
HOPE.



AND I'LL
MAKE
EVERYONE
OPEN THEIR
EYES
BEFORE
THAT, SO
WAIT FOR
ME.



DON'T WORRY.
I'LL CHANGE
MY CLOTHES
AND DESCEND
TO THE
SURFACE.

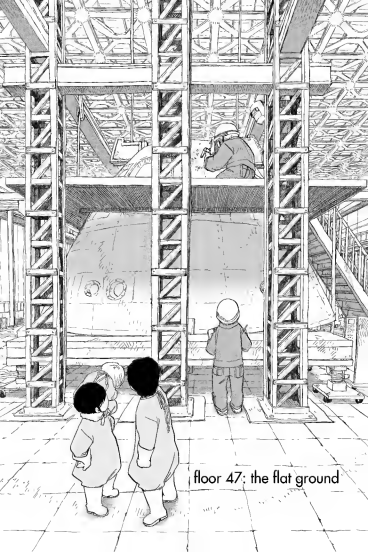
AH...
MAKIE.



...was for
you two.



The ship I'm
building...



floor 47: the flat ground















YOU'RE
BEING
FORCED TO
DO THAT JOB
BECAUSE
YOU'RE A
LOWER-LEVEL
RESIDENT!

WHO BELIEVES
THAT WINDOW
WASHERS
SUPPORT THE
EXISTENCE
OF THE RING
SYSTEM?



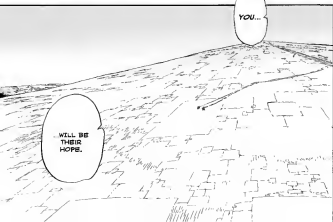
OUR
VOICES
WILL NOT
BE HEARD.

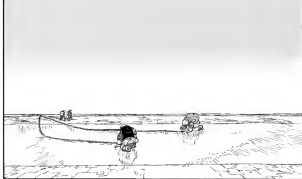
SOMETHING
INSIGNIFICANT
LIKE WASHING
WINDOWS WILL
NOT TELL
OTHERS OF OUR
EXISTENCE.

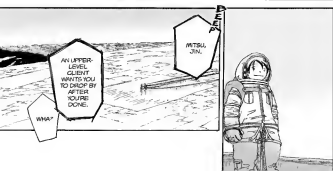


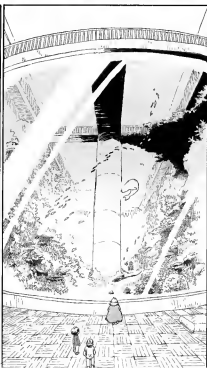
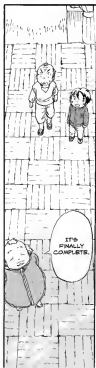
...THAT
THERE'S NO
REASON WHY
WE'RE SHUT UP
IN THE LOWER
LEVELS!

SO WE MUST
PROVE TO
EVERYONE...















...I WANT TO
HIRE YOU
PARTLY
BECAUSE
YOU TALK
THAT WAY!



I'M SORRY
IF I'VE
HURT YOUR
FEELINGS...



...I REALLY
DO ENJOY
BEING
INVOLVED
WITH YOU
TWO.

BUT...



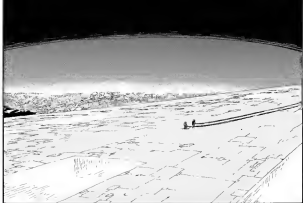
YOU'LL
STEER MY
COMPANY
IN A GOOD
DIRECTION.

KEEP
GOING

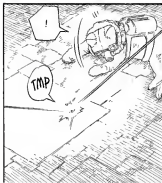


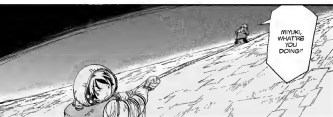
NO ONE
CAN GO
OUTSIDE.

THE UPPER
AND LOWER
LEVELS ARE
ACTUALLY
NOT THAT
DIFFERENT.







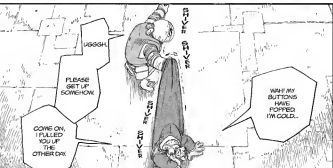






floor 48: hope









"I'LL ACCEPT YOU."



"BUT NOW YOU'RE
ALREADY WORKING
ALONGSIDE US."



"THAT
YOU'VE
IMPROVED
A WHOLE
LOT."

"HE OFTEN
TALKS
ABOUT
MITSU."



"DON'T
RASH
THINGS."



"YOU TWO HAVE
YOUR DREAMS."

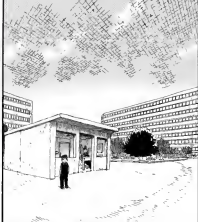




Now
I have
faith in
myself.

And I...

...can
give
hope to
others
as well.







IT'S ABOUT
THAT GIRL I
USED TO GO
OUT WITH.

UM, MY
PARENTS
GENT ME
A LETTER.

SHHP



SOHTA,
MAY I
COME
IN?



THE WAY
HE IS,
HE'LL
PROBABLY
HAVE A
DIFFERENT
TAKE
ON IT.

SHOULD I
TALK TO
SOHTA?



SILENCE

BH?

THE
LETTER
SAYS THAT
SHE'S
STILL
WAITING
FOR ME.



HOW MANY
PEOPLE
ARE
LIVING IN
SOHTA'S
ROOM?



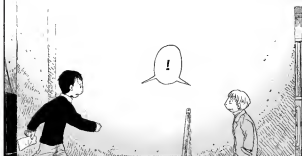
WHO
ARE
THEY?



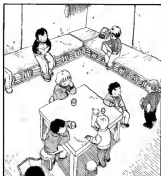
WAH!

HUP

UZOOL











Yet I'm
about to
abandon
my work....



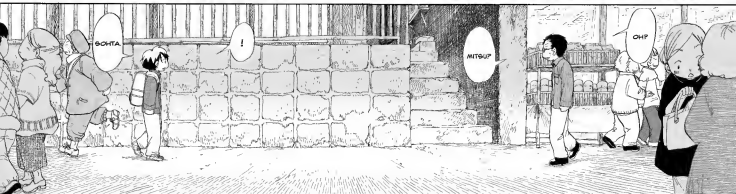
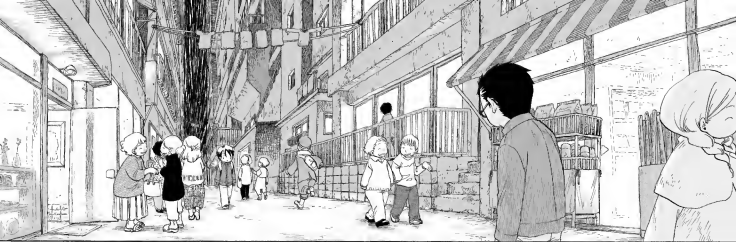
I'm so
greedy.















floor 49: looking at the shadows



AH,
NOWADAYS
HE RUNS
HOME.

WE LOST
HIM ON
THE WAY.



OH?
WHERE'S
MITSU?



HUPP.

HUPP.



IT'S GOOD
HE'S PUSHING
HIMSELF,
BUT
WHAT'S HE
TRYING TO
ACHIEVE?

WHAT THE
HECK? IS HE
TRAINING FOR
SOMETHING?



WE'LL WRITE
SOFTWARE
SO YOU CAN
STEER IT
EASILY.

IT'S
ALMOST
BUILT.



UH, IT'S
CALLED
ARGO 1.

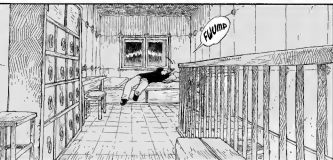
THE
DESCENT
DEVICE...



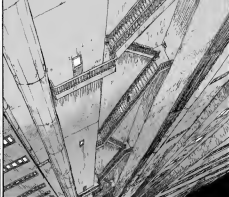














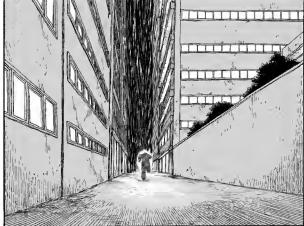










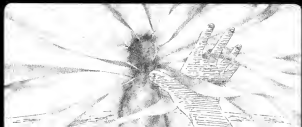




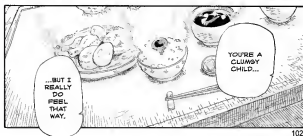


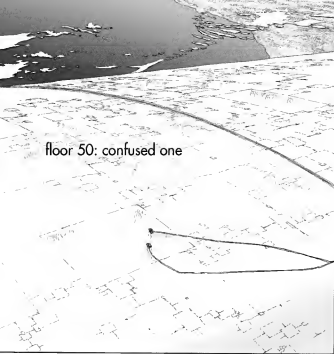
That
place
there...

Yes.









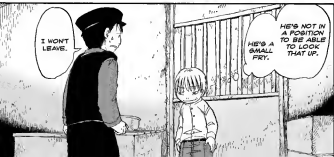
floor 50: confused one





















YEAH...
A
LITTLE.

YOU'VE
GOT
SOME
TIME?



BUSINESS
FIRST.

TAMACHI.



MAKOTO
SAID HE WAS
GONNA GO
SEE TAMACHI,
SO I TAGGED
ALONG FOR
A MEAL.

But
you're
not
alone?



I'VE ALREADY
TOLD YOU
THIS, BUT
EVERYONE'S
WAITING FOR
YOU.

YES,
TAMACHI!



THE GUILD
MEMBERS
WANT YOU
TO RETURN.









AH,
MAKOTO.

OH?



I WAS
SURPRISED.

MITSU
RAN
AWAY SO
FAST, I
COULDN'T
CATCH
UP WITH
HIM.

NOT
TAKING
YOUR
OH?



Didn't
want
her to
run
off.

WHOA,
MIYUKI...
WHAT THE
HECK.
SHE
LIKES
YOU.



HE
SEEMS
THE
STUBBORN
TYPE.

SO
TAMACHI
SAID
NO?







...quietly
wash
window
after
window.

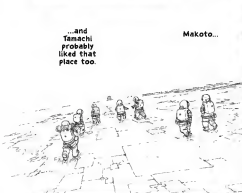
I just...



WHY DO
I LIKE
WASHING
WINDOWS?



Haa...
Haa...



...and
Tamachi
probably
liked that
place too.

Makoto...



BUT I
LIKE
THAT
PLACE.



Actually...

Do I only
like that
place?



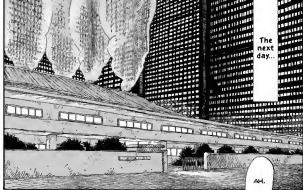
Hey.

That's
why I
don't
want to
leave it.

Dad...



I like
the
people
at that
place.



The next day...



...YES.

AM.
SO YOU'RE QUITTING?



YUP, NO CHANGE.

LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU WANT TO RETURN.



PHOO

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND ANOTHER JOB SO EASILY.



YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE?

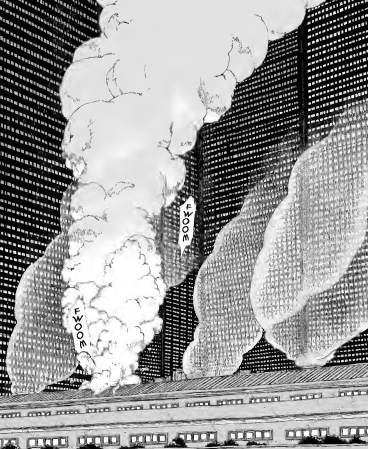


SO WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?

HMM.







floor 51: smoke





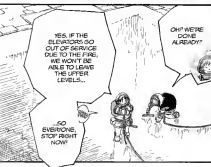




YES.



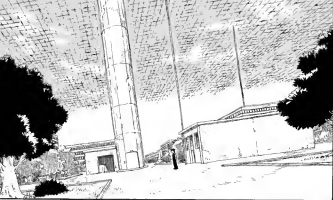
A FIRE ON THE LOWER LEVELS?



SO EVERYONE STOP RIGHT NOW!

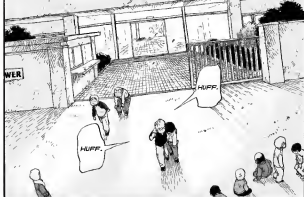
OH? WE'RE DONE ALREADY?







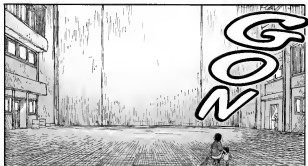




...to save
anyone?

Aki.
Will I be
able...

HEY.





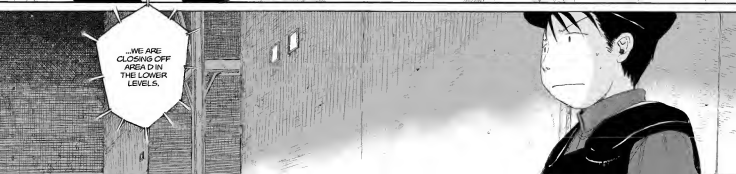
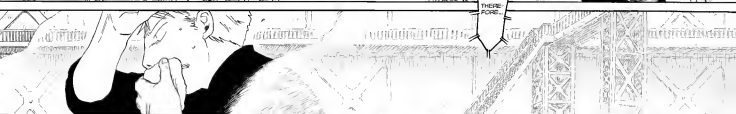




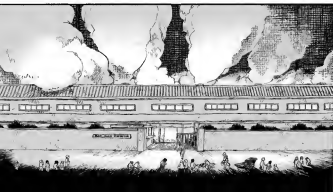
A LARGE
FIRE IS
BURNING IN
THE LOWER
LEVELS.

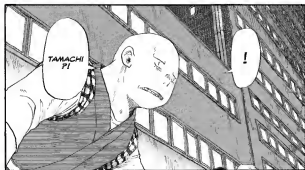
...

BEEEEEEEEEE...









floor 52: confusion

TAMACHI
MIGHT STILL
BE INSIDE
THE BURNING
BUILDING.

EVERYONE
COME TO
THE POWER
PLANT AND
HELP.













ACTUALLY,
TAMACHI
TOLD THE
INJURED
ONES TO
GO.



WHAT?
TAMACHI
IS STILL
INSIDE?

YEAH,
ACCORDING
TO THE
GUYS WHO
FLED
FIRST.



THEY ONLY
INHALED
SOME
SMOKE, SO
NO ONE'S
HURT.



HE WAS
PROBABLY
ABLE TO ACT
QUICKLY
BECAUSE HE
KNEW ABOUT
THE DANGER.



TAMACHI WAS
LOOKING FOR
DANGEROUS
SPOTS IN THE
FACILITY.



I'LL SEND
THE FACILITY
BLUEPRINTS
AND THE DATA
CONCERNING
THE
DANGEROUS
SPOTS TO THE
GUILD
HEADQUARTERS,
SO PLEASE GET
IT FROM THEM.



TAMACHI'S
DATA...

...SHOULD
STILL BE
IN THE
MANAGE-
MENT
SECTION.



THE PLANT
CHIEF...OR
THE MANAGE-
MENT SECTION
CHIEF...

EITHER
OF
THEM
HERE?

THE
SECTION
CHIEF IS
HERE.





ONCE
I GO,
I MIGHT
NOT BE
ABLE TO
RETURN
FOR
SEVERAL
DAYS.

THE LOWER
LEVELS
HAVE BEEN
CLOSED
OFF.

YOU'RE
ONE OF
MITSU'S...
VALUED
CUSTOMERS.

P L E A S E !

WHY
ME?

I NEED TO
GO DOWN
THERE.

MEOW

...EVEN
THOUGH
I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
YOU?

...YOU
WANT ME
TO TAKE
CARE OF
YOUR
CAT...

GO...

P L E A S E .

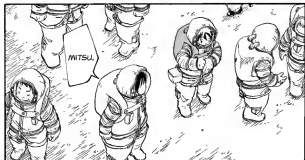
BUT YOU'LL
HAVE TO
WASH MY
WINDOWS
AND MAKE
THEM
SPARKLY.

ALL
RIGHT,
I'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF IT.

YOU
ACTUALLY
WANT TO
TAKE
THAT CAT
WITH YOU.

...











...In order
to provide
equal
treatment
for the
upper and
lower
levels.

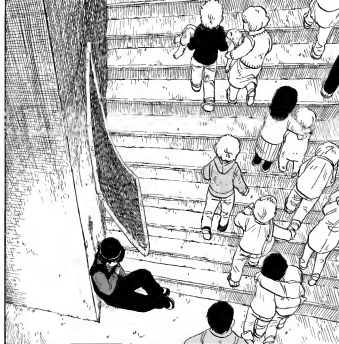


I wanted
to work
for the
Public
Peace
Bureau...











Somebody
tell her...

Anybody...

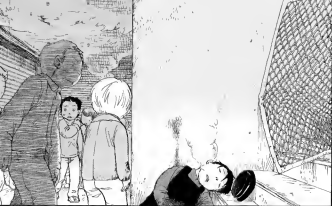
WAH

floor 53: light and shadow



I was
happy
she was
really
waiting
for me.









THIS YOUNG
MAN MIGHT'VE
BEEN KILLED
BY AN
UPPER-LEVEL
RESIDENT.



NO...

BUT THAT
UPPER-LEVEL
PEACE BUREAU
STAFF WAS
HIGH-HANDED.
IT COULD'VE
BEEN HIM...



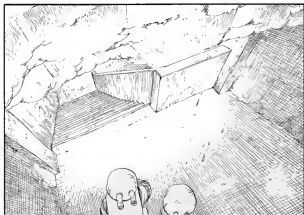
EVER

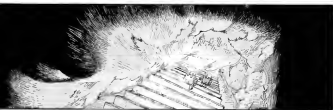
MAYBE HE
WAS FORCED
TO TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THAT
CHAOS...



DAMN...

SO AN
UPPER-
LEVEL
GUY
KILLED
HIM?!

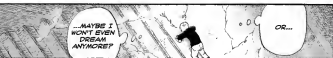














I got
him...

GRAB

I can
rescue
you!

I'll
rescue
you.

This
time
I'll...!

Aki.







Aki...









PLEASE
WAKE
UP!

WHY'RE
YOU
ASLEEP
?!



TAMACHI!

TAMACHI!



YOU CAME
BACK TO
RESQUE
PEOPLE,
BUT YOU'VE
COLLAPSED
YOURSELF.

DON'T
LET THE
SMOKE
GET YOU.



AH,
MAKOTO!
HE SEEMS
ALL RIGHT.

CAN YOU
STAND UP?
YOU WALK BY
YOURSELF.



YOU GUYS
ARE
HARSH...



HEY,
MAKOTO.
MITSU.



MAY I BE
A WINDOW
WASHER
ONCE
MORE?



I'll have
another
junior
colleague.

You
hear
that,
Dad?

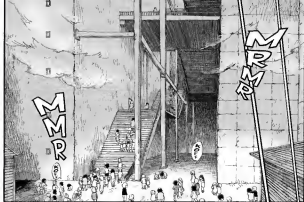
I can't help
laughing.

And he can
do better
work than me.

...Dad...

Smile...







in the loft



PARTY,
PARTY!!

A RESIGN-
NATION
PARTY.



SO TAMACHI
IS QUITTING
HIS JOB
TODAY.

LET'S
CELEBRATE
IN STYLE, IF
YOU DON'T
MIND DOING
IT AT OUR
PLACE.



YES...
WHAT WAS
THAT?

I JUST
HEARD
A BIG
SOUND...



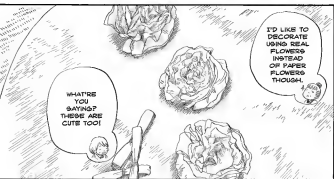
I think
they're
better
than
couches.

I'LL BE
HAPPY
IF MY
ROOM'S
FULL OF
THESE.

DON'T
WORRY.

HE MIGHT
NOT LIKE
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT,
BUT...

He'd
prefer
couches.



WHAT'RE
YOU
SAYING?
THESE ARE
CUTE TOO!

I'D LIKE TO
DECORATE
USING REAL
FLOWERS
INSTEAD
OF PAPER
FLOWERS
THOUGH.

saturn apartments

SATURN APARTMENTS

Volume 6

VIZ Signature Edition

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THE END OF SATURN APARTMENTS 6

In the Next Volume

The Ring System, a structure constructed in space when Earth was abandoned as an environmental preserve, contains a society divided by money and status. Mitsui, a sixteen-year-old lower-level window washer whose father was killed when he fell from the surface of the Ring, struggles to define his role in this stifling and segregated civilization. Unsafe living conditions and unrest among the residents trouble the lower level, but Mitsui and his colleagues also struggle with loneliness and thwarted ambitions. In the final volume of *Saturn Apartments*, Mitsui must decide whether he will descend to the surface of the earth in an experimental device and attempt to change the fate of the Ring System forever.